Title: Need to sanction Ganga Action Plan-phase II in West Bengal and provide funds for it .-Laid.

DR. ASIM BALA (NABADWIP): Sir, works under Ganga Action Plan Phase-I has been completed. The programme of the Ganga Action Plan Phase-II is yet to be started in West Bengal. On the basis of the State Government's proposals and under the Supreme Court directions, the proposal has been submitted to the Central Government which accorded administrative approval in October, 1996 at an estimated cost of Rs.348.05 crore. A detailed project report for various components has also been submitted to the Government of India and approval has already been received for detailed reports submitted by the State Government. The State Government has already represented to the Central Government that it is very difficult to find resources in the State Budget to meet 50 per cent of the project cost. It had also been decided in the meeting of the National River Conservation Authority held in July, 1997 presided over by the hon. Prime Minister that the Ganga Action Plan Phase-II Schemes would be fully funded by the Government of India.

The Schemes under the Ganga Action Plan Phase-II are quite important in the context of environmental improvement. Non-implementation of the Schemes will adversely affect the environment of the areas, that is, the towns and the quality of water in the river Ganga besides causing tremendous resentment among the local people. As such, Schemes in the West Bengal towns for which Government of India had already accorded administrative approval should be sanctioned under the GAP Phase-II as early as possible.